

In the Claims

1. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Amended) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article; and

applying a ~~The method of claim 7, said~~ protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol-overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material.

9. (Amended) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material; and

~~The method of claim 4, said method further comprising:~~

~~applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.~~

10. - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Amended) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first

article;

applying ~~The method of claim 17, said~~ protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol-~~Overlying~~ a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material.

19. (Amended) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material; and

~~The method of claim 14, said method further comprising:~~

~~applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.~~

20. - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Amended) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article; and

applying ~~The method of claim 24, said~~ protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol-~~overlying~~ said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material.

26. (Amended) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material; and

~~The method of claim 21, said method further comprising:~~

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

27. - 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

forming over at least a portion of the second article a cover comprising a heat shrinkable material;

heating said cover to shrink said heat shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first wax layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover;

applying a first protective layer overlying said first wax layer;

applying a first layer of surface coating overlying said first protective layer;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said first layer of surface coating to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second wax layer overlying said surface of said mold;

applying a second protective layer overlying said second wax layer;

applying a second layer of surface coating overlying said second protective layer;
applying a second layer of molding material overlying said second layer of surface coating to form a first article; and
removing said first article from said mold.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, said first article comprising a hard cover for said second article.

32. (Original) A method for fabricating a mold from an article, the method comprising:
applying a shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;
shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said article;
and
applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold for said at least a portion of said article.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, said method further comprising:
applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before applying said layer of molding material.